

I CLAIM:

1. A blender for preparing a treatment liquid, comprising
a chassis;

a manifold having a length of tubing supported by the chassis, the tubing having an upright generally planar side wall and a multiplicity of inlet connections opening through the upright side wall; and

a fluid path including the manifold providing a mechanism for adding another material to the fluid path.

2. The blender of claim 1 wherein the mechanism comprises an inlet and an outlet and the manifold is a suction manifold connected to an inlet of the mechanism and further comprising a discharge manifold in communication with the mechanism outlet.

3. The blender of claim 2 wherein the upright side wall of the suction manifold faces away from the chassis and the discharge manifold comprises a length of tubing providing a transverse bottom wall and an upright side wall facing away from the chassis and a multiplicity of outlet connections opening through the discharge manifold upright side wall.

4. The blender of claim 3 wherein the suction manifold tubing and the discharge manifold tubing are rectangular in cross-section.

5. The blender of claim 4 wherein the chassis provides a direction of travel, the suction and discharge manifold tubing extending in the direction of travel.

6. The blender of claim 5 wherein the first mentioned length of tubing of the suction manifold extends along a first side of the chassis in the direction of travel and the suction manifold further comprises a second length of rectangular tubing extending in the direction of travel along a second side of the chassis, the second rectangular tubing having an upright generally planar side wall facing away from the chassis and a multiplicity of inlet connections opening through the upright side wall and further comprising a conduit connecting the rectangular tubing lengths of the suction manifold.

7. The blender of claim 6 wherein the first mentioned length of tubing of the discharge manifold extends along a first side of the chassis in the direction of travel and the suction manifold further comprises a second length of rectangular tubing extending in the direction of travel along a second side of the chassis, the second

discharge manifold rectangular tubing having an upright generally planar side wall facing away from the chassis and a multiplicity of inlet connections opening through the second discharge manifold upright side wall and further comprising a conduit connecting the rectangular tubing lengths of the discharge manifold.

8. The blender of claim 2 wherein the mechanism for adding another material to the fluid path comprises a first pump having a suction in communication with the suction manifold and a discharge, an open top hopper for receiving particulate solids and liquid from the first pump discharge, and a second pump for receiving a mixture of solids and liquid from the hopper and delivering the mixture to the discharge manifold.

9. The blender of claim 1 wherein the upright side wall has a height dimension and further comprising a transverse bottom wall generally perpendicular to the upright side wall and having a width dimension, the height dimension being greater than the width dimension.

10. The blender of claim 9 wherein the manifold tubing is rectangular in cross-section.

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11. The blender of claim 1 wherein the chassis provides a direction of travel, the first mentioned length of tubing extends along the direction of travel along one side of the chassis and the manifold comprises a second length of rectangular tubing extending in the direction of travel along a second side of the chassis, the second rectangular tubing having an upright generally planar side wall facing away from the chassis and a multiplicity of inlet connections opening through the upright side wall and further comprising a conduit connecting the rectangular tubing lengths of the manifold.

12. The blender of claim 1 wherein the upright wall includes an upper edge and a lower edge, the upper edge being outboard of the lower edge so the upright wall defines an angle with a vertical in the range of 3-20°.

13. The blender of claim 12 wherein the angle is 5-10°.

14. A blender for preparing a treatment liquid, comprising
a wheeled chassis having a direction of travel;
a suction manifold having a length of rectangular tubing extending in the direction of travel along a side of the chassis, the tubing having an upright generally planar side wall facing away

from the chassis and a multiplicity of inlet connections opening through the upright side wall;

a discharge manifold having a length of tubing extending in the direction of travel along a side of the chassis providing a multiplicity of outlet connections; and

a fluid path connecting the inlet and outlet manifolds including an open top hopper for receiving particulate solids and a mechanism for mixing solids from the hopper with liquid from the suction manifold and delivering a slurry to the discharge manifold.

15. The manifold of claim 14 wherein the suction manifold comprises a second length of rectangular tubing extending in the direction of travel along an opposite side of the chassis, the second rectangular tubing having an upright generally planar side wall facing away from the chassis and a multiplicity of inlet connections opening through the upright side wall and further comprising a conduit connecting the rectangular tubing lengths of the suction manifold.

16. The blender of claim 14 wherein the upright wall includes an upper edge and a lower edge, the upper edge being outboard of the lower edge so the upright wall defines an angle with a vertical in the range of 3-20°.

17. The blender of claim 16 wherein the angle is 5-10°.

18. The blender of claim 14 wherein the discharge manifold comprises a second length of rectangular tubing extending in the direction of travel along an opposite side of the chassis, the second rectangular tubing having an upright generally planar side wall facing away from the chassis and a multiplicity of inlet connections opening through the upright side wall and further comprising a conduit connecting the rectangular tubing lengths of the discharge manifold.

19. The blender of claim 18 wherein the upright walls of the discharge manifold tubing lengths include an upper edge and a lower edge, the upper edge being outboard of the lower edge so the upright wall defines an angle with a vertical in the range of 3-20°.

20. The blender of claim 19 wherein the angle between the vertical and the upright wall of the discharge manifold tubing lengths is 5-10°.

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